

# TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1, 1999

TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 582, TALENT, OREGON 97540-9766 TEL: (541) 512-8838

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY SET FOR OCT. 16

On Saturday, October 16, the Talent Historical Society will hold its annual business meeting of the membership at the Talent Community Center. The meeting which will

begin at 1:00 p. m. will feature the annual business meeting of the members, staff, and board. A short program will ensue, to be followed by a dessert for those attending. Being considered for election to the Board of Directors is **John Morrison**, editor of Talent's last newspaper. He now works for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments as a staff member. A graduate of Talent High School, and a professional journalist, he brings wealth of recent historical knowledge and a set of diverse skills if he is elected to the Board. Another candidate for a second board directorship is **Lorna DeYoung**, longtime resident of Talent and involved with one of the business sponsorships the Society enjoys. She is the wife of **Howard DeYoung** and is involved in the family's sand and gravel operation on Bear Creek. The Board of Directors, President **Alice Burnett**, and the Museum Director, **Marian Angele**, urge the membership who are within driving distance of Talent to meet on October 16 to conduct the annual business of the Society.

## TALENT HISTORICAL TIMELINE SHOWS GROWTH

Talent Historical Society members who missed the Talent Timeline Exhibit in the Museum now have an opportunity to note the growth of Talent even though they neglected to visit the Museum or lived too far away. Although they will not be able to see the pictures that accompanied the exhibit, the following expanded timeline will give them a taste of Talent and its development.

### TALENT AREA TIMELINE 1899 TO 1999

#### 1899-1909

- 1899 Talent erects an elementary school in a pine grove. The building which just Reached its birthday is now the Talent Community Center.
- 4 January 1900 Jacob Wagner dies--early pioneer resident, home was used as Fort Wagner during the 1850s Indian uprising, man for whom Wagner Creek is named. The location of the fort itself is indicated by a stone marker found just north of the bridge across Wagner Creek.
- 1903 Olive Oatman, once a captive with her sister of the Apaches, dies at age 65. Her father owned a hotel in the neighboring town of Phoenix.
- 1906 Hanscomb Hall built, now the only City of Talent building on the National Historical Register. Currently, the building houses Bonnie Morgan's Clayworks pottery studio and sales gallery. The building was one of the few commercial establishments in Talent that did not burn during the catastrophic fire of 1911. The building has housed the La Belle Bakery and Kandy Kitchen, and achieved valley-wide recognition as the 1950-1960s Talent Cafe.
- 1908 State Bank opens in Talent.
- 1909 United Methodist Episcopal Church is organized in Talent.

(Continued on page 7)



## HISTORY SURROUNDS US ALL THE TIME-- EVEN IN TALENT!

History--truly a story, but often lies hidden from the view of a passerby. Even in a small place such as Talent, historical events and historical places--even artifacts--abound.

One must, however, look beyond the present and probe the past so that the things one sees

can be viewed in perspective. Sometime that perspective is hard to find...almost as hard to find as the historical marker on Talent Avenue that indicates the location of Fort Wagner, the 1850s fort that the settlers used during the Rogue River Indian War, almost as hard to find as the location of Camp Baker, a recruiting and training location for recruits who joined the military to protect the white residents of the Rogue River Valley at the same time. There is no historical marker for Camp Baker, just the name of a road which is a mystery to many people whose homes are on the road itself.

Here in Talent are other examples of history as it was built or lived. For example, consider the bridge across Wagner Creek on Talent Avenue. Just a bridge folk say! True, but that bridge was built when the Pacific Highway, the first paved road to California was newly made and Talent Avenue itself lies on the roadbed of the original Applegate and California Trails. This route saw the cattle drives from California that provided the additional livestock so that the Oregon American emigrants could build cattle ranching industry not dependent on the whims of the British owned Hudson Bay Company which did not want American settlers in the Oregon country. This is the route laid out by Levi Scott for Jesse Applegate that was designed as a bypass of the Hudson Bay forts along the Oregon Trail in case the British and the Hudson Bay Company closed the route down the Columbia to American settlers.

The bridge, now shrouded in shade trees, was built before Highway 99 was named, and before it was relocated, and long before I-5 superceded Highway 99. The bridge was part of the highway that ran from San Diego, California to Vancouver, British Columbia, linking Oregon to the Spanish Camino Real which kept Southern and Central California in touch with each other by land. The Pacific Highway was the first automobile road to link the cities of the West north and south. Talent's small Wagner Creek Bridge is as historical as those that span the major rivers that the Pacific Highway traversed--the North Umpqua at Myrtle Creek, or the Rogue River at Gold Hill, or the South Umpqua at Myrtle Creek. The Wagner Creek Bridge is just as unique and just as old, even if it is smaller and not so picturesque!

## PATRON DONATIONS AID THS EFFORTS

Recent donations to the Talent Historical Society have been especially helpful. The **Valley of the Rogue Bank** donated some filing cabinets which will certainly be useful as we continue our documentary research--

oral histories, timelines, and similar paper focused historical items.

**Meadowbrook Farm**, one of our business members, donated the dessert bread and dried flowers for our Harvest Festival efforts. **Al Graber**, long-time resident of Talent loaned us a model replica of a Talent Fire Truck which we displayed at the Harvest Festival in September. In addition, the **Hope Springs Eternal Program** provided a cash donation to the Society; and the local Goodwill program donated a wooden brochure holder and an exhibit board for future use. Other donations have been received from **Mary Bagley** and **Jo Howell**.



# WILLIAM ALLEN'S 1850S TRIP ACROSS PANAMA

William Allen, Oregon pioneer, recorded the following memories for a Works Progress Administration interviewer in 1938. He reminiscence of his trip across the Isthmus of Panama (probably at Nicaragua) follows in abbreviated abstract form:

It took about 10 or 12 hours to cross the Isthmus of Panama by mule-drawn wagon. The passenger wagons were drawn by four mules. One could rent a mule to ride for an extra dollar.

There was no real road except the beaten path made by the wagons, over hills and all sorts of grades until the wagons reached the Pacific. Luggage and freight were taken across by two yoke of oxen. Native women carried small objects for travelers by balancing the objects on trays on their heads and walking along.

Some women carried trayloads of tropical fruit--limes, pineapples, lemons and coconuts--which they sold to the travelers.

The packet ships on which one booked passage lay offshore on the Pacific about three miles. Travelers, who all arrived late in the afternoon, slept as best they could arrange on the wharfs. The next morning they boarded boats to go out to the packet ships.

Cattle were taken on board so as to provide meat for the travelers, but the cows were forced to swim to the ships. Once at the ship, a crane was rigged so as to lift the cows from the water onto the packet. The cows were lifted by ropes attached to their horns, stretching their necks as they kicked and thrashed as the winch lifted them aboard. None seemed to die from this method, however. Milk for the passengers was provided by a shipborne herd of milk goats.

When a beef was killed enroute, the offals were thrown overboard and the sharks feasted.

If a fight occurred among the passengers, the captain of the ship would hang up the offenders by their wrists, and in severe cases by the thumbs, raising them just high enough so that their heels were off the deck and their toes just touching. The guilty hung there varying amounts of time depending on the severity of their offenses--sometimes overnight. At any rate, it was agonizing and those being punished would moan and groan and shriek so it could be heard all over the ship. *Interview of William Allen, Oregon pioneer, Works Progress Administration, 1938.*

## Downstream -- Coming Events

- Oct. 1** New exhibit goes up in Talent Museum display cases. Talent area agriculture will be featured. Exhibit will be up until November.
- Oct. 1** "*Faces in Places*", a panel exhibit from the Southern Oregon Historical Society will be on display at the Valley of the Rogue Bank--during the month of October.  
"*Historic Buildings and Sites in Talent*," photos and excerpts from the new THS Walking Tour of Talent brochure displayed at Bonnie Morgan's Clayworks Gallery during October.
- Oct. 16** ~~Annual Membership meeting~~ 1:00 p. m. at the Talent Community Center. Business Meeting, short program, and dessert will be available.
- Oct. 28** ~~Fun night!~~ 7:00 p. m. in Talent Community Center. Potluck and bingo for volunteers, "potential volunteers" (that is most of the membership!). staff and board.
- Nov. 6** City of Talent birthday party. 6:00 p. m. Talent Community Center. Potluck dinner, music and bingo. Partly sponsored by Historical Society.



## NEW VOLUNTEERS AID SOCIETY EFFORTS

The staff and board of the Talent Historical Society welcome volunteers who are interested in the efforts of the Society to preserve the local

history of the Talent area. New volunteers are always welcome, and four new volunteers have just added their time and efforts to this end. The Society welcomes **Sadie Jones Williams** (Mrs. Clarence Williams) and her daughter **Gennell Williams**. Gennell will soon be a familiar face to those members who visit the office for she plans to use her office skills for us. Sadie Jones Williams, who lived in Talent prior to WWII, attended Talent schools and will be one of the new oral historians for the Society. She is planning to attend the oral history training given at the Southern Oregon Historical Society's Marjorie Edens on October 2. Since one of our regular oral historians, **Judy Bunch**, will not be available until the winter months, Sadie's work will be deeply appreciated. **Frances Wandell** will soon be one of the absolutely essential volunteers who help keep the Museum open during our mandatory open hours. The Society has to keep the Museum proper open for 20 hours weekly as a stipulation of the contract we sign with the Southern Oregon Historical Society as a result of our annual funding proposal to them. And **Marguerite Marler** has volunteered to assist Museum Director **Angele Marian** as she plans and creates the exhibits of the museum. The most recent volunteers are **Steve and Alice Ray** whose varied skills at photography, graphic arts, and grant writing have the Museum Director grinning with anticipation.

The Society can always use volunteers who have keyboard skills. Historical societies do a lot of word processing. For those whose computer skills are minimal, the director reminds them that we will train them to use our word processing programs if they want to help transcribe the oral history tapes to paper. Simply call 512-8838 and inquire.

## WALKING BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to the fine efforts of several staff Members and particularly the photography of volunteer photographer **Gia Roland**, the Walking Tour brochure is now ready. The

brochure features houses within easy walking distance of downtown Talent. The brochure, the first of several planned, features several houses on the east side of the railroad track, mostly in the northern part of the city, many in the Gibson Street subdivision. The brochure indicates the type of construction, the date constructed, who the builders were and the present owners. The brochures can be purchased at the Museum, and a quick trip to Bonnie Morgan's Clayworks studio after October 1 will allow the curious to see larger pictures of several of the selected homes.

## NEW MEMBERS JOIN

Six new members have been joined the Membership list of the Talent Historical Society. With their addition the mailing list of the newsletter moves above 100.

The new members, in alphabetical order, are **Jan Acord, Marian Angele, Ron Bigelow, Marguerite Marler, the Grauman Neander family, Elizabeth Stark and Sadie Jones Williams**.

### TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Alice Burnett  
Vice-President: Myrna Holden  
Secretary: Katherine Harris  
Treasurer: Bud Gleim  
Directors:

Bob Casebeer  
Lynn Newbry  
Helen Sieber  
Betty Welburn

### MUSEUM STAFF

Museum Director: Marion Angele, Ph. D.  
Office Manager: Lisa Overton

### TITLED VOLUNTEERS

Curator & Registrar: Rosemary Bevel  
Historian: Yvonne Reynolds  
Oral Historians:  
Judy Bunch  
Poppie Beveridge  
Photographer: Gina Roland

Letters, comments, or historical articles suitable for publication may be addressed to the Editor, Talent Historical Society, P. O. Box 582, Talent, OR 97540-9766



## MYSTERY ITEMS NOW DISPLAYED

A number of mystery items are now housed in the Display case in the Museum. Members and interested others may visit the Museum and attempt to identify the mystery items. If you are successful, a drawing will be held during the Society's annual meeting on October 16, and the winners will be awarded a number of mystery prizes from the Society's Sales Gallery. One of the prizes will not be a mystery for we plan to provide a year's membership in the Society to one of the winners. Perhaps one of the mystery prizes will be one of the newly designed Talent T-shirts emblazoned with the phrase "Brains, Beauty and Talent, Oregon! We've got it all!" The Talent Historical Society logo is printed on the back of the T-Shirt. Those shirts are available to non-winners at the Sales shop for \$14.00. Get down to the Museum before October 16 to be eligible for the drawing.

## NEW ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE THS SALES SHOP

Several new items are now available in the Talent Historical Society Sales Shop in the Museum in the Talent Community Center. Here is a brief listing: Myrna Holden, board member, and Lisa Overton, office manager, have designed and have made available a Talent T-Shirt. Price \$14.00 and you can carry on your upper torso the message--*Brains, Beauty and Talent, Oregon. We've got it all!* The Talent Historical Society logo graces the back of the shirt.

The Applegate Trail Sesquicentennial commemorative coins are still available for the Society commissioned a second pressing of the coins. The coins are available in bronze, (\$10), silver (\$15), and silver with gold lettering (\$25). We have been told that the cheapest coins, the bronze, have doubled in value since they were first issued by the Society. The coins are about the size of a dollar and have a pictorial scene of a wagon on the way to Oregon on one side, and a map of the Applegate trail across Idaho, Nevada, California and Oregon on the reverse side. We first issued the coins in 1996.

Several books by Southern Oregon historical writer Percy T. Booth are now available at the Sales Shop. These include the following titles:

*Valley of the Rogues.* Coos Bay, OR: B. B. Publishing Co., 1970 (3rd printing 1993) \$14.50 hardback; \$6.50 paper.

*Legend of Indian Mary and Umpqua Joe: Pioneer Days in the Canyon Country of the Rogue River.* Coos Bay, OR: B. B. Publishing Co., 1975 Reprint 1994. \$7.95 paper.

*Grants Pass--the Golden Years.* Coos Bay, OR: B. B. Publishing Co., 1984. Re-published in 1996. \$9.95 paper.

*Until the Last Arrow.* Coos Bay, OR: B. B. Publishing Co., 1995 \$19.95 paper.

## PAYNES LEFT THEIR MARK

Payne Cliffs, and Payne Road, both east of Phoenix, were named honoring C. T. Payne whose property was situated two miles east of Phoenix. A lithograph of his farmstead can be found in Walling's *History of Southern Oregon* tucked in between pages 300 and 301. C. T. Payne emigrated to Oregon in 1852, arriving via the overland route on August 10, 1852. Payne was born in Keystville, Chariton County, Missouri, on December 15, 1831. Growing to manhood in Keystville, he married Elizabeth McCallum, also a Chariton County native, on April 15, 1852. The long trip across the Plains to Oregon was, in essence, their honey-moon journey. Initially settling in Linn County, Oregon, the couple and their children came to Jackson County in 1868. The Paynes had eleven children: John, James M., David, Sarah E., Martha J., Minnie May, Stacy, Champ T., Taylor, Mandy Lee, and Richard F. Payne.



## BEAR CREEK IS THE CENTER OF THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

Bear Creek, once known as Mary's River and occasionally as Stewart Creek, flows from the confluence of Neil

and Emigrant Creeks to the Rogue River, emptying into the backwater of Gold Ray Dam near the Table Rocks. The name Stewart Creek, now no longer used, commemorated an army officer who was killed near its banks. The creek was known to the Takelma tribe by a name which when translated into English from the Takelman language meant "dirty water."

Bear Creek flows past Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford and Central Point, with one of its main tributaries, Jackson Creek, flowing through Jacksonville. Its banks have been envisioned for nearly twenty years to become the Bear Creek Greenway, with a trail and public ownership to extend from Emigrant Lake on the south to Gold Ray's impoundment of Rogue River water on the north, providing valley residents with a stream parkway replete with bicycle and hiking trails along its entire twenty-five mile length. Presently, the bike path extends from Ashland to beyond Talent, and then recommences at Barnett Road in South Medford and runs to the Jackson County Exposition Park northeast of Central Point. A project to extend a horse trail from the Exposition Park north along the creek is in current operation with labor being provided by inmates of the Jackson County jails.

The first historical use of the stream by Caucasians was for beaver trapping by an exploratory Hudson Bay party under the leadership of Peter Skene Ogden. During the second week of February in 1827, he led a small advance party of trappers through the Rogue River Valley and made his first base camp where Wagner Creek flowed into Bear Creek (presumably somewhat south of the present spot where the creek enters the stream). This means that the Lynn Newbry Park or the Wal-Mart parking lot were probably the location for this first encampment.

Some placer mining has occurred on Bear Creek and evidence of that activity can be seen in South Talent, looking west from Highway 99 just north of the junction of Talent Avenue and Highway 99. Some 51 mining claims existed on Bear Creek from Jackson Hot Springs to Ashland's Oak Street Bridge during the Depression years in the 1930s.

The stream has proven extremely valuable for both its water and for its gravels. In fact, the building codes in the valley use the Bear Creek gravels as the standard for construction gravel. The stream's water is so important that more water rights to use its waters have been issued on Bear Creek than there is water in the Rogue River itself!

When people speak of the Rogue River Valley, they really mean the Bear Creek Valley ever since the Hudson Bay brigades traversed the valley in October of each year during the 1840s on their way to get supplies at Spanish or Mexican-held Sacramento (It was easier to get into San Francisco Bay than across the bar at the mouth of the Columbia.) They chose October so they could get back before the November snows closed the pass over the Siskiyou.

The Bear Creek Valley was thought of as the Rogue Valley when Ewing Young trailed his 1500 Spanish cattle north to provide the Willamette Valley American settlers with the cattle that the British Hudson Bay Company would not provide. And when the first wagons trailed down Emigrant Creek in 1846 into the "Rogue River Valley" it was the Bear Creek Valley they entered. The route, the Applegate Trail or the Southern Route extended the entire length of Bear Creek and only met the Rogue River near Gold Hill, almost out of the immediate valley.

Agriculturally, about one-half of the tillable land in the greater Rogue River Valley lies in the Bear Creek drainage, totaling some 300 square miles of agricultural land. The rich loam of the Bear Creek Valley first produced wheat from which the flour used by several thousand miners in Jackson, Josephine, and California's Siskiyou county made sourdough bread during the 1850s and 1860s, for the lack of rail transport into the area precluded importation of flour until the 1880s (which is why the grist mill at Eagle Point is still around!) The miners, digging for gold in the Applegate, the Scott, the Klamath, and the Rogue rivers depended almost exclusively on



Bear Creek Valley flour. The ability to produce fifty to sixty bushels of wheat per acre from the Bear Creek Valley farms made the farmers in this area among the wealthiest on the West Coast by 1870 according to Walling's *History of Southern Oregon*.

One early visitor to the Valley waxed enthusiastic over the agricultural potential with these words: "this fertile land will produce in abundance anything that will grow in the temperate zone." Apparently he was right. Corn thrives better in the Rogue River Valley than anywhere else in the state of Oregon. The valley's long growing season even allows the propagation of sweet potatoes which usually are thought to be a semi-tropical crop. Occasionally, one Bear Creek Valley horticulturalist even gets a crop of olives from his few trees, although apparently he has drawn the line at trying oranges! Certainly the pear industry has seen triumph as a result of the soil and climate that graces the valley; and the growing wine grape production indicates that the old visionary Peter Britt was absolutely right when he became the first person to plant both pears and grapes here in the Bear Creek Valley. And Talent is right in the midst of this agricultural plenty...the Bear Creek Valley, the Rogue Valley's most central feature.

## INDIAN NAME OF ROGUE RIVER WAS NOT KEPT

The Takelma name for the Rogue River was not used by the Caucasian settlers to Oregon. According to the

detachment that Commodore Charles Wilkes sent south from the Hudson Bay Company fort at Vancouver [now Washington] in 1841, the Rogue River's native American's name for the river was Tootootunas. The name was recorded in Wilke's report *United States Exploring Expedition, Vol. 5* and also in Walling's *History of Southern Oregon* [p. 301]. The similarity to the Native American tribe which was centered in the Sunny Valley area, the Tututini is likely the source of the name. The Tututini were an Athabascan triblet who also had linguistic connections with one of the native American tribal areas in Southern Douglas county. Incidentally, the Wilkes Exploration Party called the Siskiyou Pass through which I-5 now passes the California Boundary Ridge [Walling, p. 302].

## TALENT HISTORICAL TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

### 1910-1919

- 1910 ~~Town of Talent incorporated as a municipality~~. V. A. Dunlap becomes first mayor. Population--250.
- 1911 January fire levels Talent's business district.  
March--New brick school house built on Wagner Street to house grades 1-12. That building was condemned and dismantled in 1971 and the present Talent Elementary School erected on its site.  
Fall--~~Methodist congregation moves into new church building on Wagner Street.~~
- 1911-1912 School district divides. Valley View and Fern Valley school districts form. Windy Point school building opens.
- 1912 Formation of Talent Community Club (later the club was named the Women's Federation Club).  
~~Bagley Canning Company moves to a location north of Talent's railroad depot.~~  
Talent school moves from present Community Center site to new Wagner Creek location.  
~~Bonds voted for municipal waterwork system and the community's first water right is secured.~~
- 1913 Pacific Highway completed, running through Talent. It was 6000 miles long and at that time the longest highway in the world.

A. P. Talent and Eli (E. K.) Anderson, early pioneer settlers, both die.  
Talent's Christian Church building completed.

(Continued on page 8)



1914 Wagner Creek Bridge constructed.

Talent Town Council passes Speed Control Ordinance. Maximum speed allowed--  
17 miles per hour.

Talent's first Parent Teacher Association formed.

2 November 1914 Opening of Jackson County's section of the Pacific Highway.

Jackson County is the first county to offer continuous paved surface for its  
entire length through the county.

1915 Population reaches 500.

Community Center building finally is completed.

1916 Talent Irrigation District established.

#### 1920-1929

**[The Society needs more information about historical events in Talent during the  
1920s and elicits contributions from members and friends in the area. Contact  
the Society at the address shown in the masthead printed elsewhere in this issue.]**

1920 Talent population dropped to 278

Women's Federation Club establishes a library for Talent residents.

1921 Elizabeth Anderson, early pioneer woman, dies.

Water shortage crisis prompts irrigation efforts to be expanded.

1924 Emigrant Creek Dam construction begins by Talent Irrigation District.

Bagley Cannery moves to Ashland.

1927 Talent's only bank closes.

1928 Population grows to 550.

1929 Talent school district begins construction of gymnasium on Wagner Street site.

#### 1930-1939

1933 Talent Town Council resolution instructs city residents to post signs on the many  
vacant houses in Talent so that children would be discouraged from destroying  
property.

1934 Biggest Pear Pie in the world produced in Talent. (and that is another story!)

1935 Talent's railroad depot decommissioned and razed.

Newly organized Chamber of Commerce forces city to install sewer and sewer  
lines. Chamber disbands when sewer project is completed.

1936 State Highway Commission decides to relocate Pacific Highway to current U. S.  
99 route, bypassing downtown Talent and its Wagner Creek Bridge. Pacific  
Highway becomes a local street, the present location of Talent Avenue.

1938 Talent High School produces its first yearbook, *The Lookout*, subsequently under-  
going a name change to *The Talent*, and later yet to *The Bulldog*.

1939 Earl Newbry, local orchardist, elected to State House of Representatives.

First six-man football started as a competitive high school sport.

#### 1940-1949

1940 Population stays constant--381

1943 Earl Newbry elected to the Oregon State Senate.

1945 Volunteer Fire Department organized in Talent.

1946 *Talent News Flash* resumes publication.

1947 Earl Newbry elected to Oregon's Secretary of State, serves from 1947 to 1956.

**[More 1940-1949 historical items needed]**

#### 1950-1959

1950 Census data indicates population zooms to 739.

Town of Talent becomes the City of Talent.

Kiwanis, Lions, and Lioness service clubs organized.

(Continued on page 10)



# TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

206 E. MAIN ST. - COMMUNITY CENTER - SUITE C

541/512-8838

P. O. BOX 582, TALENT, OREGON 97540-9766

[talenth@jeffnet.org](mailto:talenth@jeffnet.org)

## MUSEUM HOURS

TUESDAY:	12 P.M. TO 4 P.M.
WEDNESDAY:	12 P.M. TO 4 P.M.
THURSDAY:	9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
FRIDAY:	9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
SATURDAY:	9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

## BOARD MEETINGS:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month - 1:30 P.M.  
held at: 105 N. "I" St. - Talent Library

ANNUAL MEETING, October 16, Talent Community Center, 1:00 p. m.  
Short business meeting to include election of new board members,  
short program followed by dessert and convivial conversation.

FUN NIGHT, October 28. Potluck and bingo for Society volunteers and  
"prospective" volunteers (You too can be a "prospective" volunteer!)  
6:00 p. m. Talent Community Center.



- 1951 Talent Rural Fire Department formed.  
 1954 Camp Yaiewahnoah (Campfire Girls Camp) starts operation on upper Wagner Creek near the forks.  
 Southern Pacific passenger trains stop running through the Rogue River Valley.

#### 1960-1969

- 1960 Population tops 1000.  
 1964 Lynn Newbry, Talent orchardist and former school board member elected to State Senate seat; serves until 1974.  
 1965 School districts consolidate to form present school district boundaries.  
 1967 Federated Women's Club releases Camp Yaiewahnoah on Wagner Creek to Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### [More historical data needed for the 1960s]

#### 1970-1979

1970. Population reaches 2620.  
 Vetabelle Phillips Carter, granddaughter of early pioneers E. K. and Elizabeth Anderson, an inventor of an early model traffic signal, dies at age 89.  
 New city well installed near Wagner Creek within city limits.  
 1971 Old brick school removed on Wagner Street over some local protest; most protestors wanted the structure for a museum.  
 Fire Station built behind present City Hall.  
 1972 Bear Creek Park, located on the Bear Creek Greenway, renamed honoring Lynn Newbry, local orchardist and state senator.  
 1974 "Tig" Dunham, local gadfly, begins the erection of political and social comment signs on his property on Highway 99. City attempts to enforce sign ordinance and is thwarted by a freedom of speech judgement.  
 1975. Patio Village, a low-income condominium complex for the aged, is built primarily through the actions of Granville Brittsan, long-time resident, former mayor, and son of a Talent pioneer family.  
 County builds Talent a new public library behind the Community Center.

(To be continued in next issue)

**TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P. O. BOX 582**  
**TALENT, OREGON 97540-9766**

(541) 512-8838 [talenth@jeffnet.org](mailto:talenth@jeffnet.org)



Eagle Point Historical Society  
 PO Box 201  
 Eagle Point, OR 97524

T.H.S. Logo as seen on new Talent  
 T-shirts for sale in the Sales Shoppe